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MATCH-DAY PROGRAM
Season 1998/99 - Ericsson Cup
Round 18

ERICSSON CUP

Sunday, 31st January, 1999
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS
Vs.
GIPPSLAND FALCONS

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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

Sunday 31st January, 1999

ROUND 18

Melbourne Knights

vs.

Gippsland Falcons

The Melbourne Knights would like to welcome our new General Manager Damien Phillips and trust he will strive for professionalism within our club.

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The Melbourne Knights would also like to extend their gratitude to the larger community's voluntary work at the stadium, and to our sponsors for their continued association.

TEAM LINE-UPS

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS SOCCER CLUB

1	Joe Didulica	Goalkeeper
2	Dragi Nastevski	Defender
3	Ivan Jolic	Defender
4	Ante Kovacevic	Defender
5	Lance Plunkett	Midfielder
6	John Didulica	Defender/Midfielder
7	Mijo Trupkovic	Midfield/Forward
8	Damon Collina	Striker
9	Ivan Kelic	Striker
10	Tom Pondeljak	Striker
11	Joey Rajher	Striker
12	Hrvoje Karl	Striker
13	Paul Magdic	Defender
14		
15	Ransford Banini	Defender
16	Alex Kiratzoglou	Striker
17	Michael Bosevski	Defender
18	Frank Bazzano	Midfield
19	Ante Deak	Midfield
20	Martin John	Goalkeeper
21	Zeljko Susa	Defender/Midfielder
22	Jason Vukadin	Defender
23	Michael Reda	Midfielder
24	Hrvoje Matkovic	Left Wing
25	Ice Kutlesovski	Striker

GIPPSLAND FALCONS SOCCER CLUB

1	Bojo Jevdjevic	Goalkeeper
2	Michael Anderson	Defender
3	Manny Gotis	Defender
4	Nick Palamaras	Defender
5	Jeff Hopkins	Defender
6	Levent Osman	Attack Midfield
7	Brian Macnicol	Midfield
8	Clayton Bell	Midfield
9	Lachlan Armstrong	Striker
10	Archie Thompson	Striker
11	John Hutchinson	Midfield
12	Peter Di Iorio	Striker
13	Claudio Clanosa	Defender
14	Marko Perinovic	Striker
15	Andy Vargas	Midfield
16	Billy Mitroulas	Midfield
17	Will Hastie	Midfield
18	Robbie Puca	Midfield
19	Paul Byrne	Midfield
20	Chris Ball	Goalkeeper
21	Adrian Savage	Midfield
22	Sash Becvinovski	Striker

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS

'1998/99 PLAYER PROFILES'

By DAVID BULLOCK

1. **JOE DIDULICA** *Rated one of this country's best goalkeeping prospects and was originally signed from North Geelong. A current member of the Olyroo under 23 set-up.*
2. **DRAGI NASTEVSKI** *Solid defender who has been part of two championship-winning squads. Also a current Olyroo squad member.*
3. **IVAN JOLIC** *From the highly-successful St. Albans production line. Cool-headed defender who joined the Knights at the start of the 1997/98 campaign.*
4. **ANTE KOVACEVIC** *Current club captain signed from St. Albans. Solid and reliable defender who has collected two championship medals.*
6. **JOHN DIDULICA** *Joined the Knights from North Geelong. Has struggled to cement a regular berth since arriving at Knights Stadium - mainly due to injuries.*
7. **MIJO TRUPKOVIC** *Like Didulica has struggled to hold a regular spot since crossing over from North Geelong.*
8. **DAMON COLLINA** *Made his first team debut as a substitute in the round 14 clash against Perth Glory. Has made the progression via the youth system.*
9. **IVAN KELIC** *The Knights' longest serving player, having originally joined the club back in 1989 from St. Albans. Was the State League's leading goalscorer in 1988 and has had a great eye for goal ever since. Has also spent time with both Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne, along with a spell in Asia.*
10. **TOM PONDELJAK** *The Knights' midfield play maker who is not only highly skilled but electric on the ball with his turn of speed. Loves to terrorize opposition defences and has a keen eye for goal.*
11. **JOE RAJHER** *Has progressed via the youth set-up and is indeed a player of the future. Scored a cracking goal in the opening minute in the round 5 clash with Brisbane.*
12. **HRVOJE 'HARRY' KARL** *Joined the Knights this season after enjoying a superb 1998 with St. Albans. Was the Premier League's second leading marksman and has taken to the National competition like a duck to water.*
15. **RANSFORD BANINI** *Former Ghanaian youth international who was originally brought to these shores by the now-defunct Brunswick Juventus. A real pocket battleship both in size and in the Knights' defensive structure.*
16. **ALEX KIRATZOGLOU** *Despite being only 24, Alex seems to have been around for some time. Started off at South Melbourne before heading across to Heidelberg as part of a transfer deal. Has in the past two years played in the Belgium Second Division and in the English Second Division and with non-league team Bath City.*
18. **FRANK BAZZANO** *Young midfielder signed from Essendon Brunswick Royals this season.*
19. **ANTE DEAK** *Signed from North Geelong in 1996. Has been hampered with injury problems.*
20. **MARTIN JOHN** *Young goalkeeper signed this season from the V.I.S. Made his debut against Wollongong City in round two to rave reviews after taking over the mantle due to Joe Didulica's injury. Has so far made four first team appearances.*
21. **ZELJKO SUSA** *Current Olyroo squad member who has class written all over his tall frame. Good in both the air or at ground level and a real tough competitor.*
22. **JASON VUKADIN** *Signed this season from St. Albans and has adjusted with a minimum of fuss to the step-up in standard.*
23. **MICHAEL REDA** *Has been known to be something of a wildman, but is on his day a quality midfielder who can control proceedings. Has also spent time at National level with Adelaide City and Wollongong City.*
24. **ICE KUTLESOVSKI** *Known as the 'Iceman', Kutlesovski joined the Knights from Altona Magic. Originally known as an out and out goalscorer, he has since become something of a 'jack of all trades'.*

GIPPSLAND FALCONS

'1998/99 PLAYER PROFILES'

By DAVID BULLOCK

1. **BOJO JEVDJEVIC** *Signed last season from Premier League outfit Springvale White Eagles as cover for goalkeeper Jim Kourtis. With Kourtis moving on to Sydney Olympic during the off-season, Bojo has taken over the number one shirt with a minimum of fuss.*
2. **MICHAEL ANDERSON** *Young defender signed at the start of the season from Frankston Pines in the Victorian Second Division.*
3. **MANNY GOTIS** *In his second stint with the Falcons and somewhat of a late bloomer. Reliable defender who has been a nomad at times, some of his former clubs include Port Melbourne and Croydon City.*
4. **NICK PALAMARAS** *Defender signed from Port Melbourne in 1996. Very solid in the sweeping position and also has a good eye for goal when the occasion arises.*
5. **JEFF HOPKINS** *Former Welsh international with over 350 English Football League appearances with Crystal Palace and Reading. An off-season signing from Malaysian Football where he spent two seasons.*
6. **LEVENT OSMAN** *Current member of the Olyroo squad. Classy defender who has represented his country at under 20 level and is a former captain of the V.I.S.*
7. **BRIAN MacNICOL** *Joined the Falcons last season after becoming a free agent from the now-defunct Collingwood Warriors. Had previously played at this level with Brunswick Juventus. A highly skilled midfielder who is at his best taking on defenders*
8. **CLAYTON BELL** *An ever-present midfielder for the Falcons over the past three seasons. A product of the V.I.S., Bell has captained the Australian Joeys (U/17's) and was named the Victorian under 16 player of the year in 1994. Signed from Port Melbourne.*
9. **LACHLAN ARMSTRONG** *Having his second spell in a Falcons' shirt. Signed from Westvale where he was a leading force in the club's promotion into the Premier League competition. Has also has a spell with the Canberra Cosmos and also spent some time in Scotland.*
10. **ARCHIE THOMPSON** *The New Zealand born striker burst onto the scene late in the '96 season when introduced to the senior set-up by then-coach Frank Arok. A member of the Olyroos, he is lightning-fast and dangerous around goal.*
11. **JOHN HUTCHINSON** *Like Thompson, Hutchinson was promoted to the senior set-up by Arok late in the '96 season. A product of local outfit Morwell Pegasus, Hutchinson is a very talented and ever-alert midfielder.*
12. **PETER DI IORIO** *After a superb '96 season with Bulleen, Di Iorio was snapped up by the Collingwood Warriors, looking for some upfront fire power. With the Warriors biting the dust, he joined the Falcons at the start of last season.*
13. **CLAUDIO CANOSA** *The current Falcons record holder for League appearances. The fiery red-haired Argentinian-born defender is also combing a coaching role with the club.*
14. **MARKO PERINOVIC** *Signed this season from Canberra, with the sloe aim of giving the club some real muscle and another option in front of goal.*
15. **ANDY VARGAS** *After failing to hold a regular spot with Carlton, the midfielder made the trip down the Princess Highway to Mobil Park during the off-season.*
16. **BILLY MITROULAS** *Yet another former Port Melbourne player in the Falcons' books. Has been limited in his appearances despite being in his third season with the club.*
17. **WILL HASTIE** *A Falcons' ever-present since joining the club from Port Melbourne in 1996. The no-frills midfielder has tasted football overseas during spells in Scotland and Ireland.*
18. **ROBBIE PUCA** *Young midfielder signed by the Falcons during the off-season.*
19. **PAUL BYRNE** *A product of the Falcons' youth team. Made his senior debut in 1997.*
20. **CHRIS BALL** *Goalkeeper signed this season from Western Australia.*
21. **ADRIAN SAVAGE** *Youth team product who has mainly been limited to appearances off the substitutes bench.*
22. **SASH BECVINOVSKI** *Recently signed from Premier League high-fliers Altona Magic. That competition's leading marksman in 1998 and his second spell with the Falcons.*

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KNIGHTS 98/99 FIXTURES

DATE	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	VENUE	KICK-OFF
BYE				
18/10/98	Melbourne Knights	Wollongong Wolves	Knights Stadium	3:00pm
25/10/98	Adelaide City	Melbourne Knights	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30pm
30/10/98	Northern Spirit	Melbourne Knights	North Sydney Oval	7:30pm
08/11/98	Melbourne Knights	Brisbane Strikers	Knights Stadium	4:00pm
15/11/98	Melbourne Knights	Sydney United	Knights Stadium	5:00pm
22/11/98	Canberra Cosmos	Melbourne Knights	Knights Stadium	4:00pm
29/11/98	Melbourne Knights	South Melbourne	Knights Stadium	4:00pm
05/12/98	Gippsland Falcons	Melbourne Knights	Falcons Park	6:00pm
13/12/98	Melbourne Knights	Adelaide Sharks	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
18/12/98	Newcastle Breakers	Melbourne Knights	Breakers Stadium	8:00pm
27/12/98	Melbourne Knights	Marconi Fairfield	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
03/01/99	Sydney Olympic	Melbourne Knights	Belmore Sports Ground	6:00pm
10/01/99	Melbourne Knights	Perth Glory	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
17/01/99	Carlton	Melbourne Knights	Optus Oval	6:00pm
BYE				
26/01/99	Wollongong Wolves	Melbourne Knights	Brandon Park	6:30pm
31/01/99	Melbourne Knights	Gippsland Falcons	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
07/02/99	South Melbourne	Melbourne Knights	Bob Jane Stadium	6:00pm
14/02/99	Melbourne Knights	Adelaide City	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
21/02/99	Melbourne Knights	Northern Spirit	Knights Stadium	6:00pm
27/02/99	Brisbane Strikers	Melbourne Knights	Suncorp Stadium	7:00pm
07/03/99	Sydney United	Melbourne Knights	Parramatta Stadium	
14/03/99	Melbourne Knights	Canberra Cosmos	Knights Stadium	3:00pm
19/03/99	Adelaide Sharks	Melbourne Knights	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:30pm
28/03/99	Melbourne Knights	Newcastle Breakers	Knights Stadium	3:00pm
03/04/99	Marconi Fairfield	Melbourne Knights	Marconi Stadium	7:00pm
11/04/99	Melbourne Knights	Sydney Olympic	Knights Stadium	3:00pm
18/04/99	Perth Glory	Melbourne Knights	Perth Oval	4:00pm
25/04/99	Melbourne Knights	Carlton	Knights Stadium	7:00pm

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ERICSSON CUP REVIEW - ROUND 17

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Melbourne	18	11	3	2	33	18	36
Sydney United	15	10	2	4	28	18	32
Adelaide City	16	9	2	5	26	14	29
Northern Spirit	16	9	2	5	19	16	29
Carlton	16	8	3	5	32	20	27
Perth Glory	10	8	3	5	30	19	27
Brisbane Strikers	16	7	4	5	22	19	25
Sydney Olympic	16	7	3	6	27	23	24
Marconi Fairfield	16	7	3	6	29	28	24
Adelaide Sharks	15	5	3	8	24	26	18
Newcastle Breakers	18	5	3	8	16	25	18
Wollongong Wolves	16	4	5	7	23	29	17
Melbourne Knights	15	3	3	9	14	24	12
Gippsland Falcons	15	3	3	9	8	28	12
Canberra Cosmos	10	1	2	13	12	36	5

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STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

RESULTS
(Until Round 16)

Round 1	vs.	BYE		
Round 2	vs.	WOLLONGONG WOLVES	(h) 1-2 (Kelic 87th)	att: 2,000 est
Round 3	vs.	ADELAIDE CITY	(a) 0-3	att: 3,716
Round 4	vs.	NORTHERN SPIRIT	(a) 1-2 (Karl 79th)	att: 13,654
Round 5	vs.	BRISBANE STRIKERS	(h) 3-2 (Rajher 1st, Karl 30th, Susa 90th)	att: 2,997
Round 6	vs.	SYDNEY UNITED	(h) 0-1	att: 3,500 est
Round 7	vs.	CANBERRA COSMOS	**(a) 2-0 (Karl 30th, Kelic 41st)	att: 3,584
Round 8	vs.	SOUTH MELBOURNE	(h) 0-1	att: 6,500 est
Round 9	vs.	GIPPSLAND FALCONS	(a) 1-0 (Karl 61st)	att: 2,000 est
Round 10	vs.	ADELAIDE SHARKS	(h) 0-1	att: 3,204
Round 11	vs.	NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	(a) 2-2 (Kelic 8th, Karl 33rd)	att: 3,312
Round 12	vs.	MARCONI FAIRFIELD	(h) 1-2 (Reda 13th)	att: 3,000 est
Round 13	vs.	SYDNEY OLYMPIC	(a) 0-3	att: 4,181
Round 14	vs.	PERTH GLORY	(h) 1-1 (Kelic 21st)	att: 4,200 est
Round 15	vs.	CARLTON	(a) 4-2 (Kelic 42nd, Susa 88th)	att: 4,590
Round 16	vs.	BYE		

** Played at Knights Stadium

GOALSCORERS

(5) Hrvoje Karl, Ivan Kelic (2) Zeljko Susa (1) Joey Rajher, Michael Reda = total (14)

APPEARANCES

Ante KOVACEVIC (13), Zeljko SUSA (13), Ransford BANINI (12), Jason VUKADIN (12), Ivan JOLIC (12/2), Ivan KELIC (11/1), Joe DIDULICA (10), Tom PONDELJAK (10), Sonny SEVIN (10/1), Hrvoje KARL (9/4), Michael REDA (8), Ice KUTLESOVSKI (7/5), Joe RAJHER (5), Dragi NASTEVSKI (5/2), Martin JOHN (4), Alex KIRATZOGLOU (3/5), Damien VOJTEK (3/0), Ante DEAK (2/3),Mijo TRUPKOVIC (2/2), Frank BAZZANO (2/1), John DIDULICA (1), Damon Collina (0/2).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

ALEX KIRATZOGLOU

By DAVID BULLOCK

Having spent the past two years overseas playing in Belgium and England, why did you decide to come to the club?
AK: *"I knew I was going to be staying here for a while now, the club has a good history so I came down to training one day, trialled with the club, spoke to the president and things worked out from there."*

How have you found your own personal form?
AK: *"I started off okay, then I got injured and missed about six weeks, now I'm trying to get back to peak fitness and trying to find some form again."*

You have been on the scene for sometime, having previously been with South Melbourne and Heidelberg in your early days and surprisingly you are just 24.
AK: *'Yes, I have a bit but I still haven't really established myself, which is what I'm hoping to do right now. I want to finish this season really strong, do well for the Knights and hopefully look forward to a better year next season."*

Would it be right to say that you are somewhat of a forgotten player?
AK: *" I think I have got a little bit of a point to prove maybe. I don't know about a forgotten player. I'm not sure I was that noticed before I left anyway. I really want to make a name for myself back here and help the Knights."*

How do you see Josip Biskic in comparison to Vid Horvat now he has taken over the reins?
AK: *"Well, I think it might be a little bit different because 'Bisk' is his own man isn't he. He has certainly got the players respect, everybody knows what he has done in football, especially with the Melbourne Knights. He is going to gain a lot of respect for sure and I expect a pretty good working relationship because of that."*

What changes have you noticed with the League since returning – is it stronger or weaker?
AK: *"It's a catch 22, we are losing a lot of players but teams are going professional now such as Perth Glory and Sydney Olympic and I think it's the way to go now. If we (Knights) are to be competitive, in fact any team in the National League, they have to look at being professional. The rest will find themselves behind or out of the League."*

From a player's point of view, how do you feel about the current television coverage the game is getting?
AK: *"It doesn't affect me personally, as we have enough problems to worry about. But it is a worry that it might make the game go a little bit backwards. Hopefully the ABC will pick up their game a little bit or the ASF has to put more pressure on them hopefully."*

Finally, how have you found the Knights' supporters?
AK: *"I think they have been quite supportive. They understand the team is in the rebuilding stage."*

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT...

HRVOJE 'HARRY' KARL

By DAVID BULLOCK

What made you decide to join the Knights?
HK: ***"When I first came to Australia my relatives took me to the club and I thought I'd like to play there. In the end, it was all a bit of an accident. I missed going to a couple of other clubs, so I ended up staying there.""***

How have you found the stepping up from the Premier League into the National competition?
HK: ***"I though there would be more training and a lot harder and yes, there is a big difference. The players in the National League are much smarter. For eample, even if they're not physically stronger, they're tactically better."***

Have is your body coping with having trained and played non-stop for the past twelve months?
HK: ***"Lately I have been feeling really tired. Sometimes tiredness from nothing, such as getting up in the morning and still feeling tired."***

Have you set yourself a personal goals target this season?
HK: ***"I would be happy with 12 goals. If I had been concentrating more and had more experience I could have, given the chances that I've had, easily gotten nine goals by now. I am a bit disappointed as my confidence has been a bit down, but it is getting better."***

How have you found your partnership with Ivan Kelic?
HK: ***"I think it has been good."***

Having come from St.Albans, what do you believe is the club's secret, given that they have regularly supplied the Knights with good quality players over the years?
HK: ***"This is a good question because I don't know the answer. The way we work at the club is like a friendship. The Melbourne Knights should be really happy that St.Albans exists. This year Jason Vukadin, Paul Magdic and myself have come over and in the past there has been Jolic, Kovacevic, Kelic and Ivan Duzel."***

What difference do you foresee with Josip Biskic taking over the helm?
HK: ***"Joe Biskic knows the League and was a good and experienced player. He is more of a character and people respect him. I believe things will change drastically."***

Given that your life is a hairdresser, you must keep her very busy with all the different changes of hair colour.
HK: ***"Recently when my hair was red, we didn't win. So I came home and shaved my hair. At the moment my hair is very short, but now I have bleached it. My wife is always thinking of different ideas so I just leave it up to her."***

Are you happy to just stay put and play in the National League?
HK: ***"I really haven't got any plans. If the clubs were like, say Perth or Northern Spirit who pay very well, I wouldn't go anywhere. I would actually like to go and make some quick money in, say, Asia, come back and buy a house and stay here."***

Finally, how have you found the Knights' supporters?
HK: ***"They are very loyal and they are very patient as we are a young team. I must say the Knights have very good supporters."***

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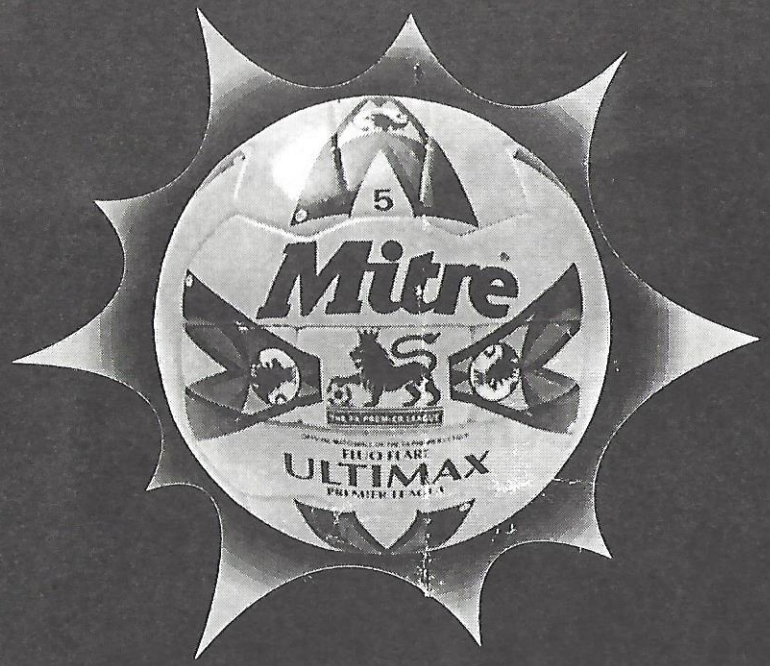

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- THE SETTING ALIGHT OF, OR THE IGNITING OR DISCHARGING OF ANY TYPE OF OBJECT, INCLUDING FIREWORKKS, SIGNAL OR SMOKE FLARES, IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

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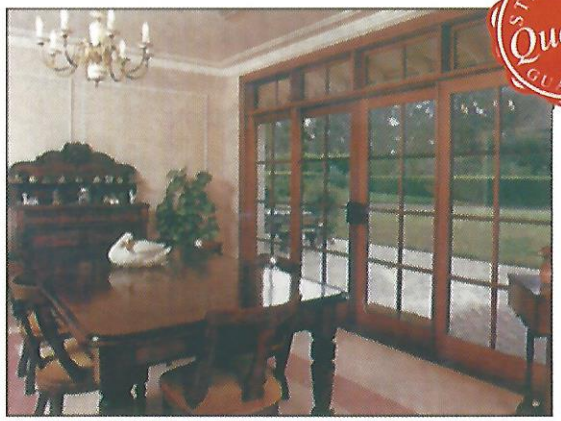

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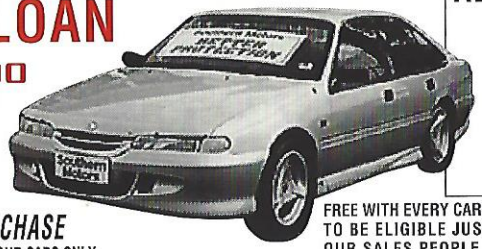

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